

Message Text

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66-61

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 2700

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR GATT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, COMECON, EFTA, AU, HU, GR, TU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL ON TRADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH HUNGARY

1. DEPT MAY RECALL EMBASSY REPORT (VIENNA 7572, NOV 29, 1971) THAT REITERER, HEAD FOREIGN TRADE SECTION, AUSTRIAN MIN TRADE AND NOW AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE TO EC, SOUGHT U. S. VIEWS ON AUSTRIAN (AND WESTERN) POLICIES IN SUPPORT OF HUNGARIAN ECONOMIC REFORMS. HE AT THAT TIME ALSO MENTIONED THAT BASED ON HIS CONTACTS WITH HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS, TIME MAY ONE DAY COME WHEN HUNGARIANS MAY BE INTERESTED IN FREE TRADE AREA ARRANGEMENT WITH AUSTRIA AND POSSIBLE SWITZERLAND. AT THE TIME THIS EMBASSY CHARACTERIZED THIS AS A GLEAM IN REITERER' S EYE.

2. REITERER HAS NOW RAISED THIS MATTER A SECOND TIME. DURING DISCUSSION WITH FSO ANTHONY GEBER, IN VIENNA ON FSI SENIOR SEMINAR CASE STUDY, HE REFERRED TO RECENT INFORMAL TALK HE HAD HAD WITH HUNGARIANS. HE TOLD THEM AUSTRIA CONTEMPLATING FREE TRADE AREA ARRANGEMENT WITH GREECE AND TURKEY, ESPECIALLY
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INTERESTED IN LATTER. HUNGARIANS TOLD HIM THEY WOULD FOLLOW ANY ARRANGMENT AUSTRIA CONCLUDES WITH TURKEY WITH GREATEST INTEREST AND THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENT COULD SERVE AS EXAMPLE TO HUNGARY. ASKED ABOUT IDENTITY OF HIS HUNGARIAN INTERLOCUTORS, REITERER RESPONDED WITH PLEA FOR GREATEST CONFIDENCE THAT IT WAS DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BACZONYI AND HUNGARIAN REP AT GATT NYERGES.

3. REITERER CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HOPE FOR U. S. UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF POSSIBLE AUSTRIAN ENDEAVORS BOTH TOWARD TURKEY AND EVENTUALLY HUNGARY.
HUMES

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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